

MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF ECCLESTON PARISH COUNCIL, held on TUESDAY, 12 JULY 2016 at 7.30 pm in ECCLESTON VILLAGE HALL, Kiln Lane, Eccleston

PRESENT: Cllr Ashcroft (Acting Chair)
Cllrs Broughton, Gray-Williams, Duncan, Haw and Skepper
Janet Anderson – Clerk
3 residents

APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

16.34 Cllrs Dawson, C Pearl, G Pearl, Kempzell, Sims and Watmough

DECLARATION OF INTEREST

16.35 None

MINUTES OF MEETING HELD 14 JUNE 2016

16.36 **Resolved that the Minutes be approved and signed by the Chairman as a correct record.**

MATTERS ARISING

16.37 None

RESIDENTS' ISSUES

16.38 One resident made comments on the Windle Island improvement scheme. He said that the junction at the end of Bleak Hill Road would become more congested. Cllr Haw explained that Parish Councillors had attended a meeting with St Helens Council the previous evening and had expressed the same concerns. It was reported that St Helens Council were investigating the possibility of traffic signals and if that was not feasible they would investigate the possibility of a mini roundabout.

Another resident raised the issue of cars mounting the kerb at Bleak Hill Road to access the car park at the corner of Kiln Lane adding danger to the junction. Cllr Haw replied that he would be meeting with St Helens Council regarding the issue of missing bollards.

POLICE REPORT

16.39 No one was available to attend from the police but PCSO Green had sent crime figures for the current month and the previous month. Councillors reported that there were no areas of concern.

MILLBROOK LANE JUNCTION – REPORT FROM HIGHWAYS, ST HELENS COUNCIL

16.40 Councillor Ashcroft read out an email that had been received from Mr G Houghton, Head of Highways, St Helens Council responding to the issues raised by residents about the safe crossing of the junction. Attached – Appendix 1.

REPORTS

16.41 **Resolved to note the following:**

Smithy Working Party – 12 July 2016, 6.45 pm – all Councillors were given a copy of the Curators' Report for July 2016. The following points were discussed:

- **Midsummer Murder** – the event had taken place on 2 July and had been well received
- **Visitors** – 2 women had visited the Smithy recently who were artists and had shown an interest in working with the Smithy
- **Music and Magic of Shakespeare's World** – event to take place on 27 August. Past Curator Tom Hughes would be demonstrating the music from Shakespeare's day. Younger visitors would be encouraged to dress in fairy or elf outfits
- **Festival of Archaeology** – this year's theme being magical herbs and remedies and superstitions of Shakespeare's time
- **School Visit** – St Thomas of Canterbury would be visiting in the morning on 20 July
- **2017 Season** – theme for next year would be 'Cabinets of Curiosity' with odd and amazing objects that people collected to show off to friends which led to the early collections in museums
- **Side Garden** – would be used for August event and therefore required tidying up. Curators requested that Paul could carry this out whilst working on the path. **Cllrs agreed that Paul would carry out the work and payment would come from the Smithy events budget.**

Lester Drive – 12 July 2016, 2.30pm – Cllrs Duncan and Skepper attended the meeting at Lester Drive Centre and reported that everything was running well.

PLANNING APPLICATIONS

16.42 **Resolved to note the following:**

Delegated

- 64 Houghtons Lane** Demolition of existing garage and erection of a single storey side and single storey rear extensions **N/O**
- 23 Crocketts Walk** Demolition of existing conservatory, and erection of a single storey rear extension **N/O**

VILLAGE HALL WORK

16.43 The Clerk had received 2 quotes for work to refurbish the toilets and corridor. One more firm would be attending the Village Hall the next day to give a 3rd quote. Councillors agreed that the Hall and Personnel Sub Ctte would use delegated powers to make a decision on the quotes.

ACCOUNTS

16. 44 Received: Village Hall hire £1005, R Kelsey PAYE £77.80, 2nd half precept £27,039.04, Windle PC telephone and copier £35.69, interest £1.56 and 0.02, Murder Mystery £90

Total Receipts £28,249.11

Payments:

St James Church – Garden of Remembrance grant	250.00**
De La Salle School Merit Award	40.00*
Bleak Hill Primary School Merit Award	40.00*

Eccleston Mere Primary School Merit Award	40.00*
St Julie School Merit Award	40.00*
Eccleston Lane Ends School Merit Award	40.00*
Tommy Poole Electrical – repair notice board and lock on cupboard	72.71
George Wright Brewing Company – beer for IBD	456.84
Chubb Fire and Security – annual service of fire equipment	104.52
St Helens Council – cleaning May	314.30
Mark Harris – Smithy Murder Mystery event	350.00
J Chamberlain – items for Murder Mystery event	32.63
Post Office Ltd – PAYE & NI Apr-Jun	1431.26
United Utilities – June	10.37
United Utilities – June	26.46
J Chamberlain – items for murder mystery	87.96
J Chamberlain – July	168.86
J Anderson – July includes travel and petty cash	1264.43
L Poole – July	440.75
V Griffiths – July	168.86
Merseyside Pension Fund – July employer and employee contributions	417.54
Paul Potter Garden Services – July 2 visits	62.50
St Helens Council – cleaning June	314.30
Total Payments	£6174.29

* Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections 137 & 139 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure which, in the opinion of the Council, is in the interests of the area or its inhabitants and will benefit them in a manner commensurate with the expenditure.

** Resolved that the Council in accordance with its powers under sections S214 of the Local Government Act 1972 should incur the following expenditure to contribute towards expenses of cemeteries.

RECONCILIATION - The Clerk reported that, as at 30 June 2016, the Balance in the Current Account was £6,500.00, Reserve Account £56,736.93 and Capital Deposit Account £464.99.

PETTY CASH - Expenditure for the month of June 2016	£16.99
Approximate balance at the end of June 2016	£5.27

DELEGATED POWERS OVER RECESS

16.45 **Resolved that the Chairman Cllr G Pearl, Deputy Chairman Cllr Sims, in conjunction with the Clerk, be authorised to act on the Parish Council's behalf over the August recess.**

CORRESPONDENCE

16.46 **Resolved to note the following:**

St Helens Council – Henbury Court had requested Kieron McCarthy from Grounds Maintenance to look at vegetation they thought was growing through from the Smithy stopping residents gardening. Also concern over the safety of some trees. St Helens Council quoted £32.40 to cut brambles. **Cllrs looked at the side garden and resolved that the brambles were on Henbury Court side of the concrete boundary fence and were not on Parish property. Clerk would inform St Helens Council.**

Email – from the dance group using the hall on Saturday giving notice to finish hiring the hall. Not enough youngsters had attended. They would like to try again in September.

Email – request to use the hall from September on Sundays for English and maths tutor groups – 2 sessions except for the Sundays when the Wine group use the hall (the first Sunday of every other month)

Vinyl – quote for lettering on Chairman’s Board - £30 + VAT (same as last time)

Bleak Hill Primary School – thank you for prize/merit award money

De La Salle School – thank you for prize/merit award money

DATES OF MEETINGS

16.47 **Resolved to note the following:**

Tuesday 6 September 2016	7.00pm	Ecclesfield	Village Hall
Tuesday 13 September 2016	6.45 pm	Smithy Meeting	Our Lady’s
	7.30 pm	Parish Council Meeting	Our Lady’s

The meeting closed at 8.10 pm.

SIGNED

DATED

APPENDIX 1

Millbrook Lane/Bleak Hill Road - Traffic Issues

From: **George Houghton/envpro/STHMBC**

Sent: 06 June 2016 15:15:08

To: ecclestonpc@hotmail.com

Dear Ms Anderson

I refer to your recent email in which you have forwarded the concerns expressed by Miss Horrocks from Henbury Court as to the speed of traffic on the above roads in the vicinity of their junction with Kiln Lane and the subsequent difficulties being experienced in crossing the road, particularly by her elderly residents and wish to advise you of the following.

As you will know, Millbrook Lane and Bleak Hill Road form part of the B5201 route on the highway network, which by definition, caters for the majority of traffic passing through Eccleston and Windle, inclusive of all classifications of vehicle and as such, the Council is somewhat limited in the type of action it can take to mitigate its effect.

Given the presence of the staggered junctions with Gunning Avenue and Kiln Lane and the numerous turning manoeuvres which occur there, the speed of traffic is not considered to be excessive and the vast majority of drivers adhere to the speed limit there.

Being the B5201 and given the role it plays in terms of accommodating freight traffic, it is not deemed appropriate to introduce some physical measures, such as traffic calming measures, i.e. speed tables, chicanes and speed cushions on this route.

The issue of introducing traffic signals at the junction of Kiln Lane has also been considered, which would not only reduce vehicle speed but also provide pedestrian crossing facilities.

Unfortunately, the site constraints that exist here, such as the close proximity to Gunning Avenue, the presence of the forecourt area of the Co-op store and its lack of suitable servicing facilities, the presence of individual accesses to adjacent properties, makes it somewhat difficult to install such a control measure.

The potential of introducing a pedestrian crossing facility in the form of a pelican/puffin crossing has also been investigated and such a facility, would, given the site constraints listed above, have to be positioned at least some 30 metres to the south, away from the Kiln Lane junction and that is subject to it not obstructing the numerous vehicular accesses serving the adjacent properties,

Such a location for this crossing facility would appear to be too far away from the pedestrian desire line and generally it would not likely to be fully utilised by those pedestrians at the Kiln Lane junction.

As to the resurfacing works recently undertaken, they did require the full closure of the carriageway, thus diverting the traffic away from the area, allowing unfettered access for pedestrians.

Whilst, the pedestrians would have welcomed it, unfortunately the motorists and local businesses didn't and once these works were completed, the road was opened again at its earliest opportunity.

With regard to the adverse effects being experienced by some people, being sited so near to this road, it is somewhat difficult to physically provide what appears to be a reasonable request for assistance.

Whilst I accept that the above information may be somewhat of a disappointment to Miss Horrocks and others, nevertheless I trust that you will be able to understand the rationale behind it and of course I also wish to apologise for the delay in responding to you.

Finally, I wish to inform you that I have since received a further, more detailed query from Miss Horrocks, in which she has commented on the correspondence between Mr Seed and myself and I intend to provide her with a further response, clarifying some of the points she has raised.

Regards

George Houghton
Head of Traffic, UTC & Road Safety
Engineering Division
St Helens Council